country, and the third connecting the capital with Nagercoil, the second biggest town in the State.

21. Anchal.—As you are aware, a good many reforms have recently been effected with a view to improve the working of the State postal service. Motor transport has replaced the ordinary runners' service on all the main roads and the transport of mails has been considerably expedited. The advantages of this improvement are reflected in the satisfactory increase in the number of covers and valuable articles posted and of hundies issued. Reciprocity has been introduced between Travancore and Cochin in regard to the issue of value-payable hundies. The salaries of the staff have been recently revised and improved and all possible retrenchments effected. Although certain rates of postage had to be slightly raised, care has been taken to maintain the charges at an appreciably lower level than the British Indian postage. The Anchal Superintendent is being deputed to Madras to study the working of the British postal system, both on the administrative and account sides, with a view to further improve the efficiency of his department.

22. Medical Relief.—Since the appointment of Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan as the head of the Medical Department, a great deal has been done towards improving the tone and efficiency of the department. An Assistant Surgeon has this year been deputed to England with a State scholarship for a period of two years for study in diseases and injuries to the eye. He has also been directed to undergo training in advanced surgery. Another Assistant Surgeon has proceeded on a year's study leave to specialise in diseases affecting the nose, the ear and the throat, and on his return he will be posted to the General Hospital for carrying on that branch of the work. In order to give an up-to-date training to the older officers of the department, arrangements have been made for their being transferred by turns to the General Hospital where they will work both in the in-patient and the out-patient wards and provided with opportunities, in the clinical laboratory, of studying, applying and practising the latest methods adopted in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. A new system of testing the work of officers in the mofussil has been introduced, under which every officer is obliged to furnish a running record of the treatment of each important case to the Darbar Physician, thereby enabling the latter to correct mistakes and issue timely instructions. All medical officers have been directed to give regular courses of lectures to their subordinate staff and to the public on infection, contagion, antiseptics, disinfection, and the prevention of diseases caused by germs. A Bacteriologist has been newly appointed and has been deputed to Madras and Kasauli to undergo a course of special training in pathology and bacteriology respectively. Considerable improvements and extensions to the General Hospital are in contemplation with a view to bring that institution up to the level of a modern hospital. With a view to minimise the ravages of tuberculosis, Government have sanctioned, at the instance of the Darbar Physician, the opening of a ward in each of the larger hospitals for the admission and care of the more advanced cases, and plans are maturing for the establishment, on up-to-date lines, of a sanatorium in South Travancore for the admission and treatment of all early cases. In the Leper Asylum, Trivandrum, the latest method of treatment by means of injections has been introduced with encouraging results. Two separate wards for the segregation and care of the untainted children of leper patients have been recently constructed. Orders have also issued for the amendment of the Lepers Regulation with a view to take power to compel lepers to go into the Asylum. A scheme is under contemplation for carrying on special research work in regard to the diseases peculiar to Travancore. And lastly, in view of the increasing demand for trained nurses both in hospitals and private houses, a class for the training of nurses has been opened.

23. Ayurveda.—The Department of Ayurveda has also made considerable progress since its reorganisation in 1093. During 1095, the two private Patasalas at Changankulangara in Central Travancore and Ettumanur in North Travancore were recognised as grant-in-aid institutions. The sum of Rs. 10,000 provided in the budget for that year under debt head, for the cost of the preparation of medicines in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly